

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00899 152343Z

15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 CPR-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 VO-03

SCA-01 /036 W

----- 114993

R 152246Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3118

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

UNCLAS USUN 899

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GH, US, CGEN

SUBJ: CASE OF GRACE KORKOR (GHANA)

1. ACTING ON COMPLAINT OF A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS CHARGED CHILD ABUSE, QUEENS BOROUGH CHILD WELFARE CENTER ON MARCH 14 TOOK GRACE KORKOR, A HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYEE OF JO BLANKSON, A GHANA MISSION SECURITY GUARD, INTO CUSTODY. MISS KORKOR CLAIMS SHE IS 15 YEARS OLD, BUT HER PASSPORT SHOWS HER AS HAVING BEEN BORN ON JULY 11, 1954 IN OCTOASE, GHANA.

2. DANIEL KOTEL, GHANA MISSION SECOND SECRETARY, PHONED USUN EVENING MARCH 14 AND REQUESTED THAT MISS KORKOR BE TURNED OVER TO GHANA MISSION SO SHE COULD BE RETURNED TO GHANA ON 8:00 PM. FLIGHT. BECAUSE OF LATENESS OF HOUR, AND BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION, USUN OFFICER SUGGESTED MATTER BE LOOKED INTO MORNING OF MARCH 15.

3. ON MORNING OF MARCH 15 WE ASCERTAINED THAT A NEIGHBOR HAD ADVISED WELFARE DEPT THAT MISS KORKOR WAS BEING BEATEN AND ABUSED BY BLANKSON FAMILY. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD COPY LETTER FROM MISS KORKOR'S FATHER IN GHANA STATING HE DID NOT WANT HER RETURN HOME. ACCORDING TO WELFARE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, MISS KORKOR APPEARS AMBIVALENT AND CONFUSED. SHE STATES SHE WOULD RETURN TO GHANA ONLY IF SHE WERE TAKEN BACK

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 00899 152343Z

BY RELATIVES.

4. WE THEN CONTACTED KOTEI AND INFORMED HIM THAT IN VIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES, MISS KORKOR WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN AT WELFARE CENTER AT LEAST OVER WEEKEND AND UNTIL SITUATION BECAME CLEARER. KOTEI WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY. WE ADVISED HIM THAT WE WERE CONCERNED OVER CHARGES MADE, AND SAID FURTHER THAT IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR HOUSEKEEPERS TO LEAVE THEIR EMPLOYERS AND TO SEEK TO REMAIN IN US. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD NOT REQUEST WELFARE CENTER TO TURN MISS KORKOR OVER TO GHANA MISSION.

5. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY ACCRA COULD APPROACH MISS KORKOR'S FATHER, KWAN MENSAH, C/O MASTER DUAH, P.O. BOX 160, MSAWAM, GHANA, TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HIS DAUGHTER WOULD BE WELCOME IF SHE RETURNED TO GHANA. IF FATHER NOT AVAILABLE, MISS KORKOR'S UNCLE, KWESI MESAH, C/O P.O. BOX 4312 IN ACCRA MIGHT BE APPROACHED.

6. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY ACCRA INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
BENNETT

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